

VZCZCXYZ0003  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #8676 0281434  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
R 281427Z JAN 10  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6960  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 3925

S E C R E T STATE 008676

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/2035  
TAGS: PINR EINV ENRG ETRD PGOV PREL IT RS  
SUBJECT: (C) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ITALY-RUSSIA  
RELATIONS (C-RE9-02730)

REF: A. ROME 000097  
1B. ROME 000948 ...

Classified By: ELISSA G. PITTERLE, DIRECTOR, INR/OPS

1. (C) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS GREATLY APPRECIATE THE EXCELLENT REFS ON ITALIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC, AS POST'S TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT. BECAUSE ITALY IS ONE OF RUSSIA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN EUROPE, THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POLICYMAKER INTEREST IN I RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER VLADIMIR PUTIN OR RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DIMITRY MEDVEDEV, AND ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIA

12. (C) THERE IS ALSO CONTINUED POLICYMAKER INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENRG ARE OPERATING TOGETHER. U.S. POLICYMAKERS ALSO REMAIN INTERESTED IN ITALY'S MOVEMENT TOWARDS ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION AND THE RESTART OF ITS NUCI

1A. (U) FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY:

1) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RUSSIAN PM VLADIMIR PUTIN AND ITALIAN PM SILVIO BERLUSCONI. WHAT PERSONAL INVESTMENTS, IF ANY, DO THEY HAVE THAT MIGHT DRI  
2) (C) WHAT FACTORS ARE DRIVING ITALY'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH RUSSIA?

3) (C) HOW DO ITALIAN LEADERS VIEW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA. HAVE ITALIAN POLITICAL OR BUSINESS LEADERS INFLUENCED RUSSIAN POLICY AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS, AND IF SO, HOW?

1B. (U) ENERGY POLICY:

1) (C) WHAT ARE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' AND ENI OFFICIALS' VIEWS ON ITALY'S ENERGY RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA AND THE SOUTH STREAM PROJECT? WHERE DOES ITALIAN ENERGY POLICY CONVERGE WITH RUSSIA

2) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENI EXECUTIVES, INCLUDING CEO SCARONI, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ES

3) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE EXAMPLES, IF POSSIBLE, OF ANY INSTANCES WHERE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MADE DECISIONS TO BENEFIT ITALIAN BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF POLITICAL CONCERN

13. (U) PLEASE CITE C-RE9-02730 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.

CLINTON